

# THE MILITANT

**INSIDE**  
**Marxist books presented**  
**in Sulaimani, Kurdistan**  
 — PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 81/NO. 31 AUGUST 21, 2017

## SWP takes support for miners strike to workers

**BY EDWIN FRUIT AND MICHELE SMITH**  
 KELLOGG, Idaho — Members of the Socialist Workers Party campaigned door to door to introduce the party to workers in the Silver Valley region of Idaho Aug. 3-4. We came

### DEEPER INTO THE WORKING CLASS

to attend an Aug. 2 rally in Coeur d'Alene by silver miners, members of United Steelworkers Local 5114 who are on strike at the Hecla-owned Lucky Friday Mine in Mullan. We campaigned among workers here and in Osburn, and visited with some of the workers who had signed up for *Militant* subscriptions and bought books on the SWP program during previous visits.

During part of the trip we were joined by Pat Scott, a Walmart worker  
**Continued on page 3**

## Revolution in Cuba shows road forward in Americas

**BY SETH GALINSKY**  
 To understand Washington's hatred for the Venezuelan government and the crisis and clashes there, it's necessary to start in 1953 with Cuba and the July 26 assault led by Fidel Castro on the Moncada military base of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. This failed attack opened the Cuban Revolution, one of the two great revolutions of the 20th century, which changed Latin America and world politics forever.

The revolutionary struggle, and conquest of power in January 1959, transformed Cuban working people. They took charge of the country and their own destiny. Workers and farmers in Cuba began taking control of factories, tens of thousands were mobilized to teach peasants to read and write, landed estates were broken up and distributed to landless farmers.

The Second Declaration of Havana, read by Fidel Castro and adopted at  
**Continued on page 7**

## Workers face health care crisis under capitalist rule



Staff Sgt. John Wilkes/180th Fighter Wing Ohio National Guard  
 Thousands turned out for free health clinic in Hayesville, North Carolina. Above, waiting after filling out paper work. "We work, but we can't get health coverage," one worker told *Militant*.

### Workers discuss way out of capitalist health care disaster

**BY SUSAN LAMONT**  
 HAYESVILLE, N.C. — "Even if you have health insurance, it's still overwhelming, when you have to pay \$2,000 or \$3,000 out of your pocket anyway," Joyce Bryson told Lisa Potash and other members of the Socialist Workers Party outside the high school here Aug. 4, where a free medical clinic was underway. Potash is the SWP candidate for mayor of Atlanta.

The clinic was sponsored by the Clay County Health Department under the aegis of the Defense Department's Innovative Readiness Training program, with most of the medical personnel provided by the military.

Similar clinics around the country are one of the ways some working people get medical care. This fair ran  
**Continued on page 9**

### Workers need health care, not health insurance!

The following statement was issued Aug. 9, by Lisa Potash, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta.

Thousands of working people — and their pets — turned out to stand

### SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

in long lines at the weeklong military-run free medical fair in Hayesville, North Carolina. It's the only thing they can afford. But there are only 18 such fairs across the country this year. And there's no time for individualized treatment. If your tooth hurts, they pull it.

Working people need — and deserve  
**Continued on page 9**

## Striking Idaho silver miners gain backing from unions in Northwest



Militant/Mary Martin  
 Striking silver miners and supporters picket near Hecla Mining Company headquarters in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Aug. 2. Strike against concessions began March 13, key issue is safety.

**BY EDWIN FRUIT**  
 COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — Chanting "Hecla, Hecla, you can't hide, we can see your greedy side," and "One day longer, one day stronger!" up to 150 silver miners, their families and supporters rallied in front of Hecla corporate headquarters here Aug. 2.  
 Members of United Steelworkers Local 5114 have been on strike

at the Lucky Friday Mine in Mullan since March 13. Their contract had expired in May 2016. The company announced it was going to impose its "last and final" offer. After workers rejected this concession-filled deal, the union went on strike.

Changes demanded by the mine bosses include a dangerous loss of union control on the organization of  
**Continued on page 5**

## Political crisis of US rulers stokes liberal drive to indict Donald Trump

**BY SETH GALINSKY**  
 Liberal Democrats and their allies in the mass media, consumed by hysteria over the presidency of Donald Trump, are campaigning to get him indicted, or at least impeached. Their real target is the workers who rallied and voted for him, seeking change and to "drain the swamp" in Washington. The propertied rulers see — and fear — the threat of bigger class battles in the future. Getting rid of President Trump is a way to tell them to stand down.

"Trump gives voice to a faction of America that also feels aggrieved," Charles Blow writes in his *New York Times* column Aug. 7. "Trump won  
**Continued on page 9**

### Inside

- Bosses' drive to boost profits behind derailment, evacuation 2
- Russia protest: 'Free Ukrainian filmmaker Sentsov' 2
- Workers, religious figures hit bomb attack on Minn. mosque 4
- Survivors of Grenfell Tower fire protest UK gov't inaction 5
- Che brigade is opportunity for youth, workers to see Cuba 6



# Bosses’ drive to boost profits behind derailment, evacuation

BY JIM BRADLEY

Over 1,000 residents of the Pennsylvania town of Hyndman and surrounding area, 100 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, were evacuated after a two-mile-long 178-car CSX freight train moving through the town derailed in the early morning hours Aug. 2. One car loaded with molten sulfur and another with liquefied petroleum gas burst into flames, along with some carrying propane. CSX, one of the three largest U.S. railroads, is going through a massive cost-cutting reorganization to boost profits.

Thirty-two cars in the train derailed, shearing one house near the tracks in half and setting a garage on fire. The train was traveling from Chicago to Selkirk, New York, when it went off the tracks. The toxic sulfur fire burned for over two days. While there were no injuries or deaths, residents were forced to stay with relatives and friends in other towns or were put up in motels. Many were unable to get to work.

Several people in the town told Socialist Workers Party members who went door to door there Aug. 8 that decisions by CSX bosses had made their lives worse even before the derailment, especially the decision to close the hump yard in Cumberland, Maryland. Trains coming through town got much larger. The crossings are frequently blocked as enormous trains go through, meaning ambulances, fire trucks, people trying to get to work, have no way to get by.

“The trains fly through town, 20 to 30 times a day,” Austin Sheetz, who just graduated from high school in Hyndman, told Arlene Rubinstein. “Some-

thing was going to happen.” He said a friend of his was hit and killed by an Amtrak train there.

After being evacuated, Sheetz volunteered at the Tri-State Ministry, which became a hub of activity feeding people forced from their homes.

Construction worker Curtis Diehl, who lives near the tracks, said he heard a screech and explosion. He immediately feared toxic chemicals. “I knocked on people’s doors and told them, ‘We need to get out of here,’” he told the press.

“I’m not suggesting that the length of the train caused the accident but it could have been a contributing factor,” said John Risch, speaking for the transportation division of the SMART union, which organizes CSX conductors. “It’s hard to keep track of where the train is, especially as it snakes behind you for more than two miles,” given the small size of the crew relative to the length of the train, he said.

“What are we doing with molten sulfur coming through town?” Caleb Shaffer told the *Militant*. “Working-class folks are the ones affected. Seems like the people at the top are detached, except from their profits.”

### They’re running ‘monster’ trains

“They cut some of our mixed freight trains off and combined them into longer trains,” said Josh Blankenship, a 35-year-old conductor with three years on the job. He works out of the CSX yard in Cumberland, near where the train derailed. “We’re running monsters up here, sometimes 220 cars plus.”

Most residents were allowed back

### Russia protest: ‘Free Ukrainian filmmaker Sentsov’



Pussy Riot Facebook page

Two members of the Russian political punk rock collective Pussy Riot were detained Aug. 7 for organizing a protest near the penal colony in Yakutsk, East Siberia, where Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov is imprisoned. In what Russian authorities claimed was an “unauthorized rally,” Pussy Riot members Maria Alyokhina and Olga Borisova placed a “Free Sentsov” banner on a bridge visible to many residents in the area, while setting off blue and red flares.

Sentsov, who comes from the Crimean peninsula, was outspoken in opposing Moscow’s March 2014 annexation of the region. He was actively involved in Euromaiden protests that toppled the Russian-backed regime of Victor Yanukovich a year earlier and helped evacuate Ukrainian servicemen who were blockaded in Crimea after the Russian takeover there. Russian federal police arrested him on frame-up charges of conspiracy to commit terror attacks. Sentsov was sentenced to 20 years in prison by a Russian military court in August 2015.

Filmmakers and other artists around the world have continued to protest and demand Sentsov’s freedom. His case, along with the related frame-up and imprisonment of fellow Crimean Oleksandr Kolchenko, are “key political issues” in Russia, Pussy Riot says on their Facebook page.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

into their homes Aug. 5. A CSX official said that it was “highly unlikely” there would be negative long-term health effects. But the company added that people with asthma, heart disease, lung disease and those who are elderly, pregnant or infants might be more sensitive and should consult with doctors if necessary.

Three days later 20 of the train cars were still on the ground, and the immediate area around the derailment — 30 homes — remained under evacuation orders. Two cars containing flammable sulfur and asphalt are still to be cleared. CSX told the *Altoona Mirror* they plan to burn off lingering chemicals and load dangerous liquids from damaged cars

onto new ones.

The rail bosses — like other bosses and speculators seeking to profit off stocks and other forms of commercial paper amid today’s crisis of capitalist production and trade — are pushing to take more out of workers’ hides. CSX bosses poached new CEO Hunter Harrison away from the Canadian Pacific Railway last March, hoping to reproduce his “successful” record of imposing draconian layoffs and speedup on rail workers there.

Since then over 2,000 jobs have been cut, out of CSX’s workforce of 28,900, and thousands more are on the chopping

Continued on page 4

## THE MILITANT

### Defend women’s right to choose abortion!

*Women’s right to choose abortion is under attack in Texas and many other states. State governments have adopted or promote restrictive anti-abortion laws that most heavily impact working-class and rural women. The ‘Militant’ reports on actions to defend women’s right to choose.*



Nathan Lambrecht/The Monitor  
Supporters of women’s right to choose abortion defend clinic in McAllen, Texas, Jan. 21.

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

### NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

#### RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,  
306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £3 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £10 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand, NZ\$7 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

## The Militant

Vol. 81/No. 31

Closing news date: August 9, 2017

Editor: John Studer

**Editorial volunteers:** Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Jacob Perasso, Maggie Trowe, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in December.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

**Telephone:** (212) 244-4899

**Fax:** (212) 244-4947

**E-mail:** themilitant@mac.com

**Website:** www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States:** For one year send \$35 to above address.

**Latin America, Caribbean:** For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

**Africa, Asia, and the Middle East:** For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

**Canada:** For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

**United Kingdom:** Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 2nd Floor, 83 Kingsland High St., Dalston, London, E8 2PB, England.

**Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe:** Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

**France:** Send 120 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

**New Zealand:** Send NZ\$55 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

**Australia:** Send A\$70 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

**Pacific Islands:** Send NZ\$55 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant’s* views. These are expressed in editorials.



# SWP campaigns for miners

Continued from front page

from Federal Way, Washington, who learned about the silver miners strike from the party. She talked up the need to back them with her co-workers and they sent a poem of solidarity to the strikers. Union President Phil Epler told Scott, “Your poem is still on our wall at the union hall and it’s not coming down!”

In response to the deepening crisis of the capitalist system today, SWP members are centering the party’s work on talking to workers on their doorsteps — from apartment buildings in New York to homes in Idaho’s Silver Valley. Their goal is to expand the party’s reach, introduce workers to *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* and *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*, both by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters, and to boost circulation of the *Militant*.

Joe Barnes, who had just got off work driving a garbage truck throughout the Silver Valley region, invited us onto his porch for discussion. Mary Martin, the SWP candidate for mayor in Seattle, explained her party supports the silver miners strike and that she had attended their rally in Coeur d’Alene two days earlier. She said the party had come to help win support for the miners and to campaign for her party, a working-class party.

“I see those signs supporting the miners in yards everywhere while I’m working. Their point on not giving up union control of safety is absolutely right,” Barnes said. “I feel like everything is pointed against us. I work overtime and holidays and yet every month I scramble to pay for my son’s health insurance premium, not to mention my used car payments and everything else.”

“We need health care, not insurance,” Martin said. We need to fight to expropriate the giant pharmaceutical monopolies and the hospital corporations and run them under workers control. That way we can eliminate the insurance profiteers from health care. They don’t do anything except tell us what care we can’t get and charge us for it.”

“Like you I’m not for the Democrats or Republicans,” Barnes said. “The problem is we don’t have any say in what happens to us. They make all the decisions, based on the corporate interests that pay them off.”

## ‘Press to unify working class’

“The propertied ruling families fear us today because they know that the crisis of their capitalist system means we have no choice but to fight for our lives and our futures, like the silver miners are doing,” Martin said.

“As we fight to defend ourselves we need to press to unify the working class. The attacks of the bosses and their government won’t end until our class takes political power out of their hands, which will take a revolution, like the Cuban people did in 1959,” she said. “The SWP focuses on meeting workers on their doorsteps, at strike picket lines and other protests, to meet working people like you who are looking for a way to fight back effectively.” Barnes decided to get an introductory subscription to the *Militant* to follow the party’s activities.

Martin visited with Dixie Lepo, a retired construction worker here who in April had signed up for a *Militant* sub-

scription and bought *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* “Come in and get out of the heat,” she said, as temperatures soared above 95 degrees.

“I’m so glad that your paper says what they’re doing to Trump is a witch hunt, because it is,” Lepo said. “I love it when he talks about fake news, because that’s what all the other newspapers and TV news is.”

“The target of the witch hunt is the working class,” Martin said. “The rulers and their media spokespeople know that no matter what happens to Trump, he got in because working people are angry and looking for change. They say we’re too stupid to make those kinds of decisions. It’s fine for us to vote for whoever we want, as long as they get to choose who the candidates are. We make bad choices, they say, and need to be managed by the smart people, like is explained in the book *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* you bought.”

“You’re right,” Lepo said. “And it’s not like I go along with Trump on everything. But on the immigration problem, he is trying to make it better, letting people come here who have high skills instead of no skills.”

“We say we need to demand amnesty for all undocumented workers. We say if you are here you should be able to stay and not live in the shadows,” Martin replied. “All workers should be organized in unions and we should fight as equals for our common interests.”

“Well I can see that point also,” Lepo said. “Without farmworkers we wouldn’t have the food we need. I tried picking fruit one time and it was real hard work. I’ve met some farmworkers and they’re real good people.” Lepo decided to renew her *Militant* subscription and to get a copy of *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*.

Fruit and Martin also met Denise Angle, the mother of a striking silver miner, on her doorstep in Osburn. “My son has been at the mine for nine years,” Angle said. “I want them to settle the strike but it has got to be fair. I want my son to see this paper.”

She got a copy and asked that we send her a copy with the article on the rally, while she makes up her mind about getting a subscription. We said we’d get back in touch with her and her son.



Militant/Edwin Fruit

Mary Martin, right, speaks with Denise Angle, mother of a striking silver miner at Hecla mine, on her porch in Osburn, Idaho, Aug. 4. Martin is SWP candidate for mayor of Seattle.

Martin and Fruit knocked on the door of a man named Paul, who said, “I’m a retired city employee and a conservative Republican so probably we don’t have much in common.”

Martin explained her party is knocking on doors to discuss the crisis facing the working class and to defend the silver miners. “Neither the Democrats nor Republicans have any solutions for the catastrophe facing our class — from lack of jobs and health care to 25 years of young workers being killed and maimed in Washington’s imperialist wars to the exploding disaster of opioid addiction today. We explain that the witch hunt against Trump is directed at the working class.” Martin showed him the front-page articles in the latest *Militant* and *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*. “This book is the best book that explains last year’s election results,” she said.

“I never thought I would get anything from a socialist,” he said, thumbing through the book, “but I think I would like to read this.” He got it, along with the copy of the *Militant*.

“We are not all the same in this country. There are two classes,” striking miner and *Militant* subscriber Lewis Elam told us when we visited, saying this was the main point he got out of reading the two books by Jack Barnes he had bought. “We are the working class. The problem is we are not orga-

nized and working together.”

“You’re exactly right,” Martin said. “Our most pressing need is to unify the working class to fight in our interests. What you and the miners are doing here gives an example to workers everywhere on how to stick together and fight for safety, for your union, for the future. But it will take a socialist revolution to remove the capitalists from control over our lives and our jobs once and for all.

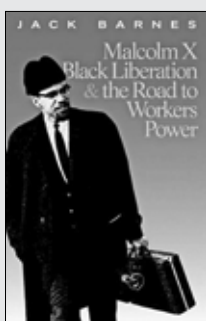
“I’m going to Cuba in October where workers made and have defended their revolution for almost 60 years. Their unions do control the conditions of work and the wealth they produce goes back into society,” Martin said. Elam got the current copy of the *Militant*, saying he wanted to resubscribe when his finances improved. But he wanted this issue, to check out the coverage about the Cuban Revolution.

At the end of this three-day visit to Idaho, including door-to-door campaigning and joining in the USW rally and on their picket lines, SWP members had signed up 10 subscribers to the *Militant*, and sold three copies of *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record* and one of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?*

And we met and deepened relationships with strikers and others following politics in the area that we intend to build on.

## SPECIAL BOOK OFFERS

ALSO AT SPECIAL PRICES:



**Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power**  
by Jack Barnes. \$15

“It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System”  
*The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class.* \$7

**Cuba and Angola:**  
*The War for Freedom*  
by Harry Villegas “Pombo.” \$7

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY...

Available for \$5 each (half price) with *Militant* subscription (trial offer 12 weeks \$5)

### Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?

*Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism*  
by Jack Barnes

### The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record

*Why Washington Fears Working People*  
by Jack Barnes

### Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?

*A Necessary Debate Among Working People*  
by Mary-Alice Waters

**\$7 EACH WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION (NORMALLY \$10)**

To subscribe or purchase books at these prices, contact Socialist Workers Party or Communist League branches listed on page 8.





# Workers, religious figures hit bomb attack on Minn. mosque

BY KEVIN DWIRE

MINNEAPOLIS — An explosion rocked the Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center just after 5 a.m. Aug. 5. What authorities now say was an “improvised explosive device” was hurled through the mosque’s window into the imam’s office, blowing up and spreading smoke throughout the building. The explosion ripped large holes in the walls, ceiling and the imam’s work desk.

More than a dozen people were gathered in a room nearby for morning prayers. Luckily, none were harmed. Mohamed Omar, the center’s executive director, said one person in the mosque saw a pickup truck speed away after the bomb went off.

The mosque primarily serves people from the Minneapolis area’s large Somali community. “We came to this country for the same reason everyone else came here: freedom to worship,” Yasir Abdalrahman, a worshipper at the mosque, told the press. “And that freedom is under threat. Every other American should be insulted by this.”

Many people in the neighborhood and across the region came to the mosque to express their opposition to the attack and show solidarity.

In the past some anti-Muslim forces, like John Guandolo, a former FBI agent who founded a group called Understanding the Threat, have charged the mosque with inculcating worshippers with Islamist terrorist views.

“I think the bombing is shameful!” That response by one retired worker was the common attitude of most workers Socialist Workers Party campaigners talked to when they went door to door in the neighborhood around the center the day after the bombing.

SWP candidate for mayor of Minneapolis David Rosenfeld and three supporters visited the center Aug. 6 to show their solidarity. Rosenfeld spoke with Asad Zaman, director of the Muslim American Society of Minnesota.

The bombing is part of “efforts to keep us divided. If the rulers can convince one group that other workers are their problem, it will prevent us from seeing our common interest,” Rosenfeld

said. “We have to take action, and not think it is OK to just say it’s terrible.”

Zaman said the center is planning a community meeting Aug. 8. “We want to change the narrative that Muslims are terrorists,” he said. “We want people to know that this was an act of terrorism.”

“We will be talking to workers throughout the Twin Cities and showing them our campaign statement that says an injury to one is an injury to all. And we will encourage them to participate,” Rosenfeld said.

The SWP candidate was given a tour of the imam’s office. Light fixtures dangled from the ceiling and burn marks were visible on the carpet.

Mohamed Omar said the center, which opened in 2011, has received threatening phone calls in the past, but has good relations with most people in the area. That was reflected in the number of neighbors who came to visit.

“An attack on a mosque is an attack on a synagogue ... is an attack on all faith communities,” Rev. Curtiss De-



Militant/Jacquie Henderson

SWP campaigner Samir Qaisar shows Perrea White *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, day after bombing of mosque. SWP campaigned against attacks on Muslims.

Young, CEO of the Minnesota Council of Churches, said at an interfaith news conference at the mosque. “So we stand with you.”

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas extended “solidarity with the local

Muslim community,” Steve Hunegs, the council’s executive director, told the press.

Among those who visited the center to show support were Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton, U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison and Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar.

## SWP: ‘Attack on mosque is attack on all workers!’

*The following statement by David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Minneapolis, was delivered to Mohamed Omar, executive director of the Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center, the day after the mosque was bombed, and released to the press.*

*The visit came during a weekend of activity that saw campaign supporters from the Twin Cities, Chicago, southern Minnesota, and Washington, D.C., fan out across Minneapolis. They distributed this statement, sold 12 subscriptions to the Militant and eight books by leaders of the SWP, and gathered 181 signatures on ballot petitions for Rosenfeld. That brings the total over the last three weeks to 52 subscriptions, 57 books and 740 signatures — with 10 to go to reach their goal of 750, one and a half times the required number to get on the ballot.*

The Socialist Workers Party condemns, in the strongest way, the bombing of the Dar Al-Farooq Center

in Bloomington, Minnesota. We call on workers, farmers and all defenders of democratic rights to condemn this attack. We call for the arrest and prosecution of the perpetrators of this violent act.

The bombing took place in the early morning hours of August 5 as worshippers gathered to pray.

This attack and other attacks on Muslims and mosques are a working-class issue. We must act on the credo of the labor movement: *An injury to one is an injury to all*. The defense of those who are scapegoated and victimized — be they Muslims, Jews, immigrants or others — is essential to building political unity of the working class and acting on the basis of solidarity with all who are exploited and oppressed.

Attacks such as the bombing of the Dar Al-Farooq Center are an outgrowth

of the climate created by the capitalist rulers and their government. They promote anti-Muslim hysteria to advance their wars and to justify spying on mosques and Muslims by the FBI and other police agencies.

We urge working people to attend the community meeting at the Dar Al-Farooq Center on August 8, 6:00 p.m., 8201 Park Ave. S. in Bloomington, MN. We pledge to not only protest this attack, but to take this issue to workers of all backgrounds and explain why we must fight to:

Stop the attacks on Muslims and mosques! Stop attacks on Jews and synagogues! Oppose assaults on democratic and political rights! End the travel ban on migrants from Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen! Get the U.S. troops out of Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria now!

## Derailment, evacuation in Pa.

Continued from page 2

block. Most hump yards where trains are assembled have been shuttered. Trains have been consolidated, making them much longer, cutting the number of workers moving freight.

Safety rules like the “three-step” rule and use of the brake stick have been eliminated. The three-step rule is a set of safeguard procedures — setting the brakes, centering the reverser and opening the generator field switch, and then telling crew members the three steps have been applied — that locomotive engineers have had to take to prevent rail cars from moving when a co-worker is going to work under, between or behind them. No more on CSX.

A brake stick is a tool rail workers use to set handbrakes without having to continually climb up and down cars. Their use is now prohibited by rule, subject to discipline, because it’s deemed “inefficient.”

“In this part of the world an emergency brake application means that you have to set 100 percent of the handbrakes to allow the air to restore,” said Blankenship, who works on crews that haul

coal up and down mountains. “Without a brake stick this becomes a dangerous and daunting task.”

CSX bosses also announced they will no longer pay for safety equipment like hard hats, safety vests and eye protection for workers who aren’t covered by union contracts.

As result of these changes, and in expectation of more to come, CSX stock values have risen significantly. But shippers say service has gotten worse, and some have switched to rail competitors or trucking.

CSX bosses blame the workers. “The pace of change at CSX has been extremely rapid,” Harrison said in an email apologizing to angry customers. “And while most people at the company have embraced the new plan, a few have pushed back and continue to do so.”

“There has been a very apparent shift away from safety for the sake of speed, not efficiency,” Blankenship said. “I don’t think for one second the railroad is anymore ‘efficient’ than it was. It is simply faster and more dangerous.”

Ask the people of Hyndman.

## NEW INTERNATIONAL

A MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY

*“Of all capitalism’s evils, the most fundamental one is how that system of exploitation reproduces its social relations as a condition of producing its profits. How its workings, its blind methods of functioning, keep grinding toiling humanity into the ground.” — Jack Barnes*

**Imperialism’s March  
Toward Fascism and War**  
by Jack Barnes

in New International No. 10 — \$16

**Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter  
Has Begun**

by Jack Barnes

in New International No. 12 — \$16

**Our Politics Start With the World**  
by Jack Barnes

in New International No. 13 — \$14



See list of distributors on page 8 or visit [pathfinderpress.com](http://pathfinderpress.com)

# Survivors of Grenfell Tower fire protest UK gov't inaction

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

LONDON — Survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire and workers in the surrounding area have continued to protest as authorities drag their heels in providing housing and financial aid, making nearby blocks safe, and bringing those responsible for the inferno to justice.

The social housing tower turned into a giant torch as fire spread up the cheap flammable cladding coating its exterior June 14, killing at least 80 people. Many believe the death toll is higher.

Residents and supporters have repeatedly turned out in force at meetings with local and government officials and police. At a packed July 12 meeting at St. Clement's Church, some 200 local residents and supporters refused to listen quietly as officials, flanked by police, attempted to explain the delays.

As newly installed council leader Elizabeth Campbell talked about cleaning the remaining windows of the tower — after an unavoidable apology for the “inadequate response” to the disaster — one survivor interrupted.

“What about people who lived in the tower, people who died? Why are we talking about housekeeping?” she asked. “We can't bring back the dead, but what about those who remain? Four weeks is too long. Why are you not an-



Tomassina Hessel, left, who was evacuated from building near Grenfell Tower in London during June fire, speaks with Communist League member Ogmundur Jonsson at July 19 protest.

swering us? Where is the government? We know the council exists, we know ‘important people’ exist. But it's like we don't exist.”

The council leader's response? “I don't know what to say in face of such despair.”

Campbell replaced Nicholas Paget-Brown as leader of Kensington and Chelsea Council, the wealthiest and

most class-divided local authority in the U.K., after Paget-Brown and two other council officials resigned June 30.

“[Prime Minister] Theresa May said survivors would be rehoused in three weeks, but that promise has been broken,” said Stewart Hill, a support worker and Unite union member who lives nearby. His friend Denis Murphy died in the fire. “People are being offered re-

## Idaho miners gain support from unions in Northwest

Continued from front page

jobs and crews by a seniority-based bid system; loss of production bonuses key to their yearly income; recall rights from layoffs and mine closures slashed from three years to three months; and the right of the company to raise premiums and deductibles for health insurance at any time.

Participating in the rally were unionists and others from Idaho, Arizona, Utah, Washington state, California and British Columbia. Unions represented included the USW, Teamsters, United Food and Commercial Workers, Iron Workers and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

Twenty longshore workers had caravanned from western Washington to the rally. “Longshore workers came from union locals in Tacoma, Seattle and Aberdeen, as well as our pensioners' organization,” Joe Lefebvre, vice president of ILWU Local 23 in Tacoma, told SWP member Edwin Fruit. “One of the oaths that we take is ‘to protect all workers everywhere.’ Sticking together is the only way we can win.” Lefebvre delivered a check to the strikers for \$5,000 from his local, and the pensioners from the Tacoma local brought \$600.

Six people came from USW Local 480 in Trail, British Columbia, which represents workers at the Teck smelter that refines the ore from Lucky Friday. “We support the brothers of Local 5114. We want to show Hecla that we as working people won't be bullied,” Armino deMedeiros, president of the local, told the *Militant*.

“We have to support the Hecla miners. Our own contract is up this month and the company wants to go after our medical care to add more to their profits,” said Greg McFarland, a USW mechanic at the Clearwater Paper Company in Lewiston.

Phil Epler, president of USW 5114, told the *Militant* that no union member had crossed the picket line. “Today's turnout is important,” he said. “If you

have enough solidarity, it doesn't matter what the company tries to do.”

The company took aim at the miners and union control of safety in a July 29 full-page ad in the *Shoshone News-Press*. A copy was mailed to every miners' household.

“The strike seems to be about a few senior employees retaining their power over the rest of the workforce,” Hecla bosses wrote. “Lucky Friday needs to evolve like all the other mines in the country have done to the new system we have proposed.”

“The union-controlled job bid system protects miners' lives by ensuring that experienced miners teach the new hires the ropes,” Epler said. “Otherwise the boss can put a new hire in a position where he can endanger himself and others.

“In the last century there have been hundreds of deaths in the mines of the Silver Valley. The Hecla Mining Company bears responsibility for dozens of these,” he said. “We owe it to all those

who lost their lives to fight for this.”

“The company's letter was aimed at the wives, families and small businesses in the communities in the Silver Valley,” Bruce Baraby, a miner at Hecla for 40 years, told the *Militant* at a picket line outside Mullan City Hall where company and union negotiators were set to meet. “They said their contract offer was great, that it was just the senior miners who were holding out against the settlement, which they claim the younger members want. It's not true. The company is trying to split the families, but it's not working.”

“The support we have gotten is unbelievable,” said Dave Roose, the unit chairman and chair of the negotiating committee. “When this is over we look forward to supporting in any way we can other unions that may go through labor fights.”

Messages and donations can be sent to: USW Local 5114, P.O. Box 427, Mullan, Idaho 83846. More information can be found on the local's Facebook page.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 21, 1992

On August 16 work in U.S. coal mines will become a little more dangerous, and miners' fight for health and safety on the job a little more difficult.

On that date, revised regulations governing ventilation in coal mines are scheduled to go into effect. Miners and their union, the United Mine Workers of America, have opposed such proposed changes for the past seven years.

Coal miners explain that the revised rules on balance favor mine owners. They will encourage practices that could lead to more tragedies like the 1984 Wilberg Mine fire in Huntington, Utah, which left 27 miners dead.



August 21, 1967

HAVANA, Cuba — The first conference of the Organization of Latin American Solidarity closed with one of the most important speeches made by Fidel Castro since the beginning of the Cuban Revolution.

The main theme of the conference was reaffirmation of the program of socialist revolution as opposed to the line of “peaceful coexistence” with the so-called “progressive” sector of the national bourgeoisie. One of the highlights of the conference was recognition of the close interconnection between the Latin-American revolution and the struggle of Black people in the United States.

housing far away from London.”

As of Aug. 1, the Grenfell Response Team claims 174 offers of rehousing have been made, 45 have been accepted and only 12 families have been rehoused. There were 129 households in Grenfell Tower. In addition to survivors of the fire, others were evacuated from blocks of nearby flats.

Chief investigating officer Matt Bonner told the meeting that the criminal investigation “will not be quick,” saying, “this is more complex than any investigation other than terrorism.”

“This is state terrorism, this is mass murder,” people at the meeting yelled out. “You murdered our friends, our family, our neighbors. If it was one of us we would've been arrested by now,” one man said.

Police have since announced that they have “reasonable grounds” to suspect the council and the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation of corporate manslaughter. Such charges against an organization could carry a fine, but no prison sentence.

Tomassina Hessel, who was evacuated from a block next to the tower, was one of the speakers at a July 19 protest outside the first meeting of the local council since the fire. She told the *Militant* that she and other residents are refusing to move back until they see evidence that the block is safe.

Over 100 buildings across Britain have been tested and found to be covered with highly combustible cladding like that on the Grenfell Tower.

### Skyscraper fire in Dubai

A huge fire climbed up the cladding-covered exterior of the unfortunately named Torch Tower, one of the world's tallest residential skyscrapers in Dubai Aug. 4, raining flaming debris on the streets below. The building was still being renovated from a similar fire in 2015.

Authorities acknowledged that at least 30,000 buildings across the United Arab Emirates are built with similar cladding.

The Aug. 4 editorial in the London *Times* warned that as authorities fail to rehouse people, “Their miserable situation is being politicised, heated up by the rhetoric of class warfare.”

But the ongoing confrontation is not caused by “rhetoric,” but by a social disaster brought on a working-class community by the capitalist rulers' profit-driven contempt on working people.

Paul Davies contributed to this article.



August 22, 1942

The Civil Rights Defense Committee announced this week that briefs on behalf of the eighteen members of the Socialist Workers Party and leaders of Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544-CIO, who were convicted last December and sentenced to prison terms under provisions of the Smith “Gag” Act, have been filed with the Circuit Court of Appeals.

The defendants were accused of “advocating” overthrow of the government.

There is no proof in the record of the prosecution's case that the alleged conspiracy created any danger of the overthrow of the government, or the creation of insubordination in the army.



# Marxist books presented in Sulaimani, Kurdistan

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

SULAIMANI, Kurdistan Region, Iraq — “If you read these two books, you’ll have a better understanding of the deepening crisis in capitalist politics in the U.S. today I’m sure you’re hearing about,” said Steve Clark, editorial director of Pathfinder Press, at a meeting at the Endese bookstore here July 20. “You’ll find out why the wealthy rulers were taken by surprise by the outcome of the presidential election last November.”

Clark was holding up *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* — two new books by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States. At the invitation of Endese owner and manager Hazhar Majeed, who chaired the program, Clark was speaking at a book-signing event to introduce some 100 of Pathfinder’s Marxist titles the store in downtown Sulaimani has recently begun selling. The books are displayed on a large bookshelf in the store.

Noting that this year is the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, Clark said that Pathfinder traces its origins to that victory in October 1917. More specifically, he said, it began with the founding two years later of the Communist Party in the U.S., part of a world organization of parties — the Communist International — that were forged by revolutionary-minded workers seeking to emulate what workers and farmers had done in the former Russian empire.

“There are no recipes, no templates, to bring about revolutionary change. But it’s necessary to understand experiences and lessons from other struggles the world over. That’s why Pathfinder publishes writings and speeches by communist and other revolutionary leaders in their own words,” Clark said. He pointed to books by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, Vladimir Lenin, and Leon Trotsky; by Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters,

James P. Cannon, Farrell Dobbs, Evelyn Reed, and other communist leaders in the U.S., current and past; by Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Malcolm X, West African revolutionary leader Thomas Sankara, and others.

Over the coming year, Clark said, Endese will also be translating 10 titles produced by Pathfinder into Kurdish and publishing them.

Both of the new books I’m focusing on, Clark said, help explain the subtitle of *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record* — that is, why the U.S. capitalist rulers *fear* working people. Under mounting blows to the living standards, job conditions, and human dignity of tens of millions, more and more workers are open to discussing radical changes, including explanations by communist workers of the roots of today’s world capitalist crisis — and revolutionary solutions to it. Down the road, the rulers know, working-class discontent will lead to rising battles in the factories and on the streets.

That fear explains the contempt in the liberal media and among upper middle class and professional layers in the U.S. toward working people, millions of whom voted for Donald Trump in 2016, hoping he’d act on his pledge “to drain the swamp” of capitalist politicians and government bureaucrats. These workers want a change from past administrations, Democratic *and* Republican, under whom workers’ conditions have grown increasingly intolerable.

The working class, Clark said, is the real target of today’s crusade by big sections of the U.S. rulers to invalidate the 2016 election and indict, convict, or impeach President Trump or those close to him. This includes looking to the political police, the FBI, to criminalize what are really political disputes.

The closing chapter of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* — “Capitalism, the Working Class, and the Transformation of Learning” — presents a course toward overcoming what’s faced by workers and the oppressed today. It



Militant

Steve Clark, editorial director of Pathfinder Press, speaks July 20 at Endese bookstore in Kurdish region of Iraq, presenting *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* and *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*, both by Jack Barnes, national secretary of Socialist Workers Party.

explains the communist approach to education — *to learning as a lifetime activity*, Clark said. To get there, Barnes explains, requires preparing working people “for the battle to throw off the self-image the rulers teach us, and to recognize that we are capable of taking power and organizing society.”

During the discussion, a young woman asked, “Are you saying, in face of governments that have enormous wealth and big armies, that education is the solution to the problems we face? How can that be?”

“That’s not what I’m saying,” Clark responded. “There can only be education worthy of working, creating humanity when working people have made a revolution and taken power out

of the hands of the capitalist rulers.”

That’s what workers and farmers did in Cuba nearly 60 years ago, he said, and that’s how education began being transformed there, too. “After taking political power, the July 26 Movement began in 1961 by mobilizing hundreds of thousands of young volunteers to take off the better part of a year to go out to the countryside to teach farmers and rural laborers, the majority women, how to read and write,” Clark said.

After the discussion, participants crowded around a table where Pathfinder books were on sale. Top sellers were *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?*, *Che Guevara Talks to Young People* and *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*.

## *Che brigade is opportunity for youth, workers to ‘see Cuba for yourselves’*

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

As of Aug. 7, 66 people have signed up to go on the “In the Footsteps of Che International Brigade” to Cuba, and 10 others are in the works. Brigade organizers say it’s filling up and anyone who wants to go should get their applications in as soon as possible.

Delegations from around the world will arrive in Cuba Oct. 1 for the two-week brigade. Initiated by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), the brigade is a tribute to the legacy of Ernesto Che Guevara.

Guevara, originally from Argentina, was one of the outstanding revolutionary leaders of the 20th century.

The brigade takes place the same month as tens of thousands of young people will gather for the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students in Sochi, Russia. The Oct. 14-22 festival is another opportunity for revolutionary-minded youth to learn more about the fight against Washington’s wars and imperialist exploitation worldwide. It is being organized under the banner: “For peace, solidarity and social justice, we struggle against imperialism. Honoring our past, we build our future!”

The brigade will commemorate the 50th anniversary of Guevara’s death in combat. He was killed in October 1967 by the CIA and troops of the Bolivian military dictatorship. Guevara had left Cuba in 1966 for Bolivia, where he led revolutionaries there who fought to

overthrow the U.S.-backed regime.

As Fidel Castro explained to the Cuban people 10 days later, Washington and the Bolivian rulers feared putting Guevara on trial, because it would give a platform to one of the world’s most powerful spokespeople for the political and moral duty of working-class revolutionary struggle.

Brigadistas will start out in the Julio Antonio Mella International Camp near Havana, meeting with leaders of Cuban groups and spending time doing volunteer agricultural work.

Brigadistas will meet with members of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), the Cuban Workers Federation (CTC), visit provinces where Che fought during the 1956-58 revolutionary war and meet some of Che’s co-combatants from both Bolivia and the Congo.

Members of the Socialist Workers Party in Minneapolis are spreading the word about the brigade as they campaign door to door. Jacquie Henderson and David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate for mayor of Minneapolis, met with Joseph Sullivan, a young worker who found out about the brigade from SWP campaigners the previous weekend. He decided to join the brigade and sent in his application. “I want to see Cuba for myself and join in telling the truth about it when I come back,” he said.

To sign up, contact the Chicago Cuba Coalition at (312) 952-2618 or ICanGoToCuba@gmail.com.



Militant

Participants browse Pathfinder titles at meeting at Endese bookstore in Kurdish region of Iraq July 20. Over coming year Endese will translate and publish 10 Pathfinder titles into Kurdish.



# Cuban Revolution shows road

Continued from front page

an assembly of more than a million on Feb. 4, 1962, asked, “What is it that is hidden behind the Yankees’ hatred of the Cuban Revolution?”

“What unifies them and incites them is fear,” it says. “Not fear of the Cuban Revolution, but fear of the Latin American revolution ... that the plundered people of the continent will seize the arms from their oppressors and, like Cuba, declare themselves free peoples of the Americas.”

Just like the period after the Russian Revolution in 1917, when revolutionary-minded workers worldwide formed communist parties, looking to emulate the example of Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks, the Cuban Revolution won a new generation to revolutionary action in Latin America and around the world. That included the United States, where many joined the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

## Three giants rising up

For more than two decades, workers and farmers in Latin America sought to follow the example of the Cuban Revolution. Che Guevara, who fell in combat leading revolutionaries in Bolivia in the fight to overthrow the dictatorship of René Barrientos, became an inspiration for millions.

In March 1979 workers and farmers took power in the Caribbean island of Grenada, led by Maurice Bishop and the New Jewel Movement. It was the first revolution in a predominantly black, English-speaking country.

In July 1979 the Sandinista National Liberation Front led toilers in Nicaragua to victory against the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship.

Inspired by what Castro called the “three giants” — Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada — “rising up to defend their rights to independence, sovereignty, and justice on the very threshold of imperialism,” new forces joined the fight.

But this rising movement was short-circuited. In Grenada, a Stalinist clique headed by Bernard Coard murdered Bishop and other New Jewel Movement leaders in October 1983, put the entire population under house arrest, and destroyed the revolution, handing U.S. imperialism a pretext to invade.

In Nicaragua, the leadership of the FSLN, after winning the war against U.S.-backed contras by 1988, threw away the historic opportunity and gave up the fight to overturn capitalist exploitation and oppression, instead turning to an alliance with “patriotic producers.”

“The opportunity to extend the socialist revolution, the opportunity to join with Cuba in constructing socialism, is being lost,” SWP leader Larry Seigle said in a report to a 1989 party conference.

These defeats, coupled with the murder of Thomas Sankara and fall of his popular revolutionary government in Burkina Faso in 1987, and the counterrevolution that prevented the workers and farmers of Iran from coming to power after their mighty overthrow of the U.S.-backed shah in 1979, marked a turning point.

The more than two decades of revolutionary-minded workers and youth seeking to emulate Cuba had come to a close — not because workers and farm-

ers were incapable of defeating imperialism, but because of a lack of revolutionary leaderships seeking to do what the Cubans have done.

## Hugo Chávez and Venezuela

It’s within this retreat that Hugo Chávez won election as president of Venezuela in December 1998, gaining support of workers looking for an alternative to the swamp of the main bourgeois parties. Chávez was explicit in rejecting the road of the Cuban Revolution and workers power, saying he was “neither for savage capitalism, nor socialism, nor communism.” He talked of a Bolivarian Revolution or 21st Century Socialism, an alternative to Cuba.

Chávez — and after his death his successor Nicolás Maduro — used the profits from the oil industry to fund social programs and to try to administer and regulate capitalism to lessen its negative impact on working people.

And he gained the undying hatred of U.S. imperialism by providing Cuba with low-priced oil and collaborating with Cuba’s revolutionary leadership in building anti-imperialist alliances in Latin America and the Caribbean. These moves increasingly isolated Washington, ultimately leading the U.S. rulers to renew diplomatic relations with Cuba in 2015 and seek new tactics in their unending effort to overthrow the revolution.

Venezuela’s oil shipments played an important role in helping Cuba overcome the “special period” that began with the collapse of the Soviet Union, when Cuba lost some 85 percent of its trade virtually overnight.

Tens of thousands of Cuban volunteers joined international missions in Venezuela that continue today to provide health care, carry out literacy campaigns and other popular social programs.

Workers and farmers took advantage of the election of Chávez to advance their own demands, including struggles for land, for greater workers control over safety and conditions of work, for access to education, health care, water, electricity and housing.

None of this was to the liking of the propertied rulers in Venezuela or in Washington, which backed a coup against Chávez in 2002. When thousands of workers and farmers took to the streets, the coup leaders backed down and Chávez returned to power.

The most committed of the revolutionary-minded fighters in Venezuela were thirsty for broader knowledge of the Cuban Revolution and the modern history of popular revolutionary movements.

One reflection of that thirst was the forum organized during the 2007 Venezuela International Book Fair in Cara-



Granma

Feb. 10, 1962, march in Santiago de Cuba in support of socialist revolution. Declaration of Havana says Washington fears not just Cuban Revolution, but revolution across Latin America.

cas on “The United States: A Possible Revolution,” to which Mary-Alice Waters, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, was invited to kick off the discussion.

Many questions came up during the five-day rolling exchange, including whether a socialist revolution is necessary, or is there a way to make capitalism serve the interest of the working class; and whether the Cuban Revolution has been superseded by a “third road” between socialist revolution and capitalist rule. Waters noted that Cuba was “the only free territory of the Americas.” It was indisputable, she said, that “Venezuela’s equivalent of the mass insurrection of the toilers of Cuba that culminated in the Jan. 1, 1959, revolution lies ahead of us, not behind.” That remains the case today.

## Capitalist contradictions

But the contradictions of trying to administer capitalism became starkly exposed as the worldwide capitalist crisis broke in 2008 and further when the price of oil dropped from \$100 a barrel to less than \$50. Attempts by the Maduro government to impose price controls and stamp out the black market have backfired. Inflation skyrocketed, now estimated at more than 700 percent a year. Food and medicine shortages are at crisis levels. Corruption is rampant.

Many workers have become demoralized, or backed away from politics because of the lack of perspective offered by the government coupled with the all-consuming need to find ways to survive in the crisis conditions.

The pro-imperialist opposition, grouped in the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD) — which won the majority in the Legislative Assembly in December 2015 — has taken advantage of the crisis to accelerate efforts to oust Maduro and his United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV).

Since April MUD has stepped up provocative demonstrations, which are often met by tear gas and rubber bullets by the police and National Guard. More than 120 people have been killed, including opponents and supporters of the government. But the opposition remains divided. It has no program in

the face of the impact of the economic crisis that wouldn’t make working people in Venezuela pay the price.

Maduro has responded by using presidential decrees and the Supreme Court, which was appointed by Chávez, to bypass the legislature. And despite a boycott by the Roundtable, Maduro went ahead with the July 30 vote for a 545-member Constituent Assembly. It held its first meeting Aug. 4, electing Foreign Minister Delsy Rodríguez as its president.

None of these moves point a road forward for workers to take power and do away with capitalist exploitation and oppression.

“There is no hunger in Venezuela,” Rodríguez told the new assembly, denying a reality every worker knows. “There is no humanitarian crisis.” What Venezuela faces, she said “is an economic war” at the hands of the opposition-dominated legislature, promising that “justice will come to them.”

The next day the Constituent Assembly ordered the dismissal of Attorney General Luisa Ortega, who was appointed by Chávez. Ortega opposed the election for the assembly, denouncing it as a violation of the Constitution, and has begun collaborating with Roundtable leaders.

Rodríguez says the opposition legislature has to go.

Meanwhile, the Roundtable has managed to split a handful of legislators from the ruling party to their side, including Ortega’s husband who was a member of the PSUV.

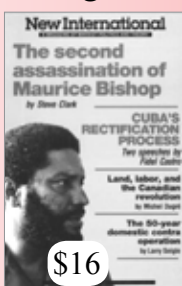
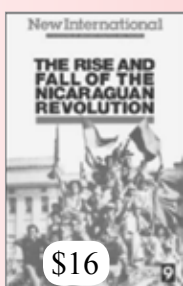
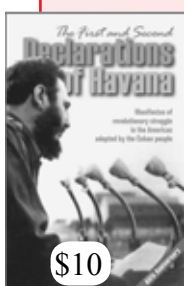
Small groups of ex-military officers have mounted attacks on government outposts, but the army remains loyal to Maduro.

Washington has imposed sanctions on more than a dozen high-ranking government, military and state-owned oil company officials, and, after his government carried through the Constituent Assembly election, on Maduro.

The Socialist Workers Party opposes Washington’s interference with the sovereignty of the Venezuelan people. We say: U.S. hands off Venezuela!

The biggest danger for working people in Venezuela today is not an imminent U.S. invasion, but that the battle between the Maduro government and the pro-imperialist opposition could spiral out of control causing an even bloodier conflict.

## Recommended reading



Available from branches of the Socialist Workers Party or Communist Leagues listed on page 8 or

[www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)



# ‘Only the working class can resolve crisis of capitalism’

*Below are excerpts from Capitalism’s World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. It is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for August. Written in the midst of fast-breaking events that marked the opening of the 21st century, the bulk of the book is comprised of four talks by Barnes that discuss the economic, social and political underpinnings of the significant changes that swept world politics between the 1987 near meltdown of the world’s stock markets, and the so-called Mexican “peso crisis” that hit in December 1994. The selection is from “Capitalism’s Deadly World Disorder,” presented in April 1993 to participants in a regional socialist educational conference in Greensboro, North Carolina. Copyright © 1999 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JACK BARNES

Workers should never present today’s crisis of the propertied classes and their social system as primarily an economic crisis. No, it is the *great political and moral crisis* of our time. It is proof that only the working class has a chance to resolve this crisis and begin transforming society in a truly human way. Because only the working class, the propertyless class, has no interest in turning like dogs on any of the victims of the



Militant/Rollande Girard

**UNITE HERE contingent at May Day 2006 Chicago rally of 400,000 for amnesty for immigrants in U.S., part of countrywide political strike and protest of millions saying, “We are workers, not criminals.” Battles for jobs, against racism and women’s oppression, against immigrant-bashing are life and death questions for labor movement, writes Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary.**

crisis-ridden capitalist system.

That is why the battle for jobs, the battle for solidarity, the battle against racism and the oppression of women, the battle against immigrant-bashing, the battle for social protection — why all these are a battle for the life and death of the labor movement. *They are the battle for the time and space to prepare a socialist revolution! That is what is at stake in pulling the working class together.*

### Working-class leaders, not utopians

The biggest lie supporters of capitalism tell about socialists is that we are trying to create a utopia, mess with people’s lives, and engineer a massive social experiment. You want to play God with the lives of other human beings, they charge. Big governments and bureaucracy are proven enemies of common people — why can’t you socialists ever learn? That is the opposite of the truth. In fact, communists are less inclined in that direction than any group of people on the face of the earth. As Marx put it, when writing about the

Paris Commune of 1871, revolutionary-minded workers “have no ready-made utopias to introduce. . . . They know that in order to work out their own emancipation, and along with it that higher form to which present society is irresistibly tending by its own economic workings, they will have to pass through long struggles, through a series of historic processes, transforming circumstances and men.”

Communists are materialists, dialectical materialists. We start with facts, with social realities, and how they develop and change over history — how they are shaped by shifting productive relations, social labor, and revolutionary activity. We know that our class and its toiling allies, who make up the majority of humanity, cannot organize the world on new foundations *as we are*. And a state bureaucracy cannot do it for us, either. We must change ourselves. On this, we are “Guevarists” to the core.

“To build communism it is necessary, simultaneous with the new material foundations, to build the new man,” Che Guevara wrote in his 1965 article

“Socialism and Man in Cuba.” We agree. Workers can and will change ourselves as we go about changing the material foundations of our relations to each other. But this cannot be done without tearing down the brutal class divisions that underlie all social relations today and that will lead through war and fascism to a culmination too horrible to even imagine — unless our class organizes to take power out of the hands of the capitalists.

There is only one real equality possible in today’s class-divided world — political equality. And it only becomes possible in the revolutionary workers movement. It only becomes possible as those who make up a fighting workers vanguard collectively prepare ourselves for the battles to rid society of every vestige of exploitation, oppression, and discrimination.

The socialist revolution is not the end of recorded history, as Stalinist ideologues have tended to present it in order to rationalize the counterrevolu-

tionary course of the parasitic caste and its claim to have established socialism in a single country. No, the workers revolution is the *beginning* of truly human history.

What is most important about the workers revolution is not the particular property changes that will sweep society directly in its wake — although without them, nothing further would be possible — but the fact that its victory opens other revolutions, such as the historic revolution for women’s emancipation. That will not be settled just by overthrowing the capitalist state and declaring the class struggle over. The new possibilities opened by a revolutionary victory, however, will lay the material foundations on which women’s liberation can be achieved and precipitate an explosion in the fight for real economic and social equality by the millenia-long oppressed sex. Similarly, all the manifold forms of class oppression bequeathed by thousands of years of property systems will for the first time be open to being vanquished.

**August BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

**PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS**

25% DISCOUNT

**Capitalism’s World Disorder**  
by Jack Barnes  
Social devastation, financial panic, coarsening of politics, cop brutality and imperialist aggression — all are products not of something gone wrong with capitalism but of its lawful workings.  
\$25. **Special price: \$18.75**

**Sexism and Science**  
by Evelyn Reed  
\$20. **Special price: \$15**

**Polemics in Marxist Philosophy**  
by George Novack  
\$25. **Special price: \$18.75**

**Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay**  
by Leon Trotsky  
Food for thought — and action — from leaders of three generations of the modern revolutionary workers movement.  
\$16. **Special price: \$12**

**Racism, Revolution, Reaction, 1861-1877**  
The Rise and Fall of Radical Reconstruction  
by Peter Camejo  
\$23. **Special price: \$17.75**

**Cuba et la révolution américaine à venir**  
(Cuba and the Coming American Revolution)  
by Jack Barnes  
\$10. **Special price: \$7.50**

**Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long**

ORDER ONLINE AT  
**WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM**  
OFFER GOOD UNTIL AUGUST 31

## IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

### UNITED STATES

**CALIFORNIA:** **Oakland:** 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email: swpoak@sbcglobal.net **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

**FLORIDA:** **Miami:** P.O. Box 380641 Zip: 33238. Tel: (305) 420-5928. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

**GEORGIA:** **Atlanta:** 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

**ILLINOIS:** **Chicago:** 3224 S. Morgan St. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 455-0111. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

**MINNESOTA:** **Minneapolis:** 416 E. Hennepin Ave., Suite 214. Zip: 55414. Tel: (612) 729-1205. Email: tcswp@qwestoffice.net

**NEBRASKA:** **Lincoln:** P.O. Box 6811.

Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincoln@windstream.net

**NEW YORK:** **New York:** 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 964-4793. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com **Albany:** P.O. Box 8304. Zip: 12208. Tel: (518) 903-0781. Email: albanyswp@gmail.com

**PENNSYLVANIA:** **Philadelphia:** 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 20. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Zip: 20012. Tel: (202) 536-5080. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

**WASHINGTON:** **Seattle:** 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: seattleswp@qwestoffice.net

### AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** Suite 22, 10 Bridge St., Granville, NSW 2142. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: 0422 062 821. Email: cl\_australia@optusnet.com.au

### CANADA

**QUEBEC:** **Montreal:** 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: cllemontreal@fastmail.com **BRITISH COLUMBIA:** **Vancouver:** Email: cllecVancouver@fastmail.fm

### FRANCE

**Paris:** BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

### NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland:** 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140. Tel: (09) 636-3231. Email: clauack@xtra.co.nz

### UNITED KINGDOM

**ENGLAND:** **London:** 2nd Floor, 83 Kingsland High St., Dalston. Postal code: E8 2PB. Tel: (020) 3583-3553. Email: clldondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** Room 301, 3rd floor, Hilton House, 26–28 Hilton St. Postal code: M1 2EH. Tel: (016) 1478-2496. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com



# Health care, not health insurance!

**Continued from front page**

*serve* — a health care system that provides free, quality, preventative health care, from cradle to grave, as a social right.

Obamacare and the different failed Republican insurance schemes, as well as calls for a so-called “single payer” government-regulated insurance plan, are all designed to be cash cows for the owners of the parasitic insurance industry. And health insurance is just one division of the massive for-profit “health industry” rooted in the giant drug, hospital and related corporations. Workers who do have some insurance increasingly face soaring premiums and deductibles, and growing “donut holes,” for the privilege of getting less and less care. Especially in rural areas, hospital bosses are deciding they can’t make sufficient profits and are closing maternity wards, operating rooms or shutting down entirely.

Individual union-won, company-based insurance plans are under increasing attack by bosses trying to solve their worldwide capitalist economic crisis on our backs. Medicare and Medicaid, conquests of past workers’ struggles, are in the gunsights of government cost cutters. Millions simply don’t have any coverage.

We can’t look to the Washington “swamp” to solve this burning social question for us. The capitalist poli-

ticians of all stripes won’t and can’t do it. It’s up to us.

We need to strengthen and transform our unions so they can fight to unite working people in the struggle for free, nationwide health care. We must fight to expropriate hospitals when bosses threaten to shut them down, to be run by health care workers themselves.

Expropriate the drug, hospital and medical equipment corporations and place them under the control of those who work there! Industries vital to workers’ needs can’t be the business of private capital.

These steps would sound the death knell of the insurance racket, whose only role is to generate profit, providing no *care* for anyone at all.

This fight is possible as part of building a movement of millions to carry out a social revolution to replace the political power of the ruling rich with workers power, to build a society based on human solidarity.

This perspective is not impossible or utopian.

In revolutionary Cuba there is no health insurance. The Cuban people use the fruits of their labor to guarantee health care for everyone. In 1959 Cuban workers and farmers overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship there and took political power. They carried out a socialist revolution, and created a world-renowned, preventative health care system that is available as a social right. This is an example we can emulate.

## Workers discuss way out of health care crisis

**Continued from front page**

for one week, free to all. “First come, First served, Prepare for potentially lengthy wait times,” said a county health department flyer.

Medical, vision and dental help were offered, and veterinary care for people’s cats and dogs.

Bryson, who works part time as a nurse’s aide, was waiting for her husband Jimmy, a retired construction worker. He was getting some teeth pulled and hopefully some glasses. “When you’re not old enough for Medicare, the elderly are left out. If something major happened to us, they would just let us die,” Bryson said. She was especially interested in the *Militant*’s coverage of the Nevada ranchers’ fight against Washington’s attacks on their right to graze cattle on federal land, and got a copy of the paper.

“Workers need health care, not insurance companies,” Potash said. “They’re parasites who do nothing but rake in billions for their owners. Health care should be free and available for all. Workers need to fight to expropriate the hospital corporations and drug companies and run them to benefit the entire working class. In Cuba, where workers and farmers made a revolution, the social surplus is used in part to make health care available to all Cubans, from the cradle to the grave. That shows what workers in power can do.”

Potash and several campaign supporters came here after learning that the medical clinic would be held Aug. 2-10. A similar clinic in 2014 drew 8,000 people and 2,600 pets. But such military medical fairs every three years won’t meet workers’ health care needs.

Potash and other SWP members discussed this and other political questions with workers, active and retired, coming in and out of the clinic, and knocking on doors in area neighborhoods for three days. Dental care and glasses were in high demand. Some were looking for help with alcohol and drug addiction.

The SWP campaigners went door to door in nearby Murphy. Almost everyone we spoke with who voted in the last election said they had supported Trump. Most welcomed the chance to talk with the SWP about the party’s proposals on how to unify the working class and begin building a fighting movement of millions that can organize and educate toward workers taking power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers.

Some hoped that Trump would be able to make some positive changes, but everyone was concerned that not much would improve on health care.

### ‘We work but can’t get health coverage’

“Insurance is way too high for anybody to afford,” Marie Mcrae, a disabled longtime garment worker, told Potash and SWP supporter Linda Joyce at the medical fair. “We work, but can’t get health coverage.

Affording medicine is even worse!”

“Many liberals are furious about Trump, and they’re working overtime to try and get him indicted or impeached. They really fear you and me, the working class, saying we’re all stupid, racist and prejudiced against immigrants,” said Potash. “But working people are less racist than ever. The civil rights struggle had a big impact on workers of all backgrounds and we’re more united than ever before.”

Mcrae agreed. “Where I worked there were a lot of Hispanic people and some became my friends. They are just here trying to survive,” she said, picking up a subscription to the *Militant*.

Guy Roberts, 33, who needed glasses, works at a mental health group home and came to the clinic with a co-worker and several family members.

After discussing what the SWP had to say, Roberts decided to get a copy of *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*, a book by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, and share a subscription to the *Militant* with his fiancé’s parents who were there. He was especially interested in Potash’s description of Cuba’s role in combating the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, an act of internationalist solidarity made possible by the socialist revolution there.

Cole Goffeg, 31, a self-employed landscaper, said he and his mother came to the clinic for dental work. “When your teeth go bad, there’s no money to replace them,” he said. “I didn’t really like either candidate in the last election, but voted for Trump because he wasn’t scared to go against the politicians in Washington. I didn’t like him as a person, though. People who voted for him wanted a change.”

Millions of workers voted for Trump because he said he would “drain the swamp” in Washington, Potash said. Many of them had voted for Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012, looking for change.

Goffeg got a subscription to the *Militant* and *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*.

“The Democrats and Republicans are all in a mess,” Angela Smith, 43, told Potash when she knocked on her door Aug. 3. We agreed on some things and disagreed on others, but she was intrigued with SWP members knocking on doors to discuss the need for workers to fight to take political power.

She decided to get a *Militant* subscription and *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*. She pointed to the party’s work taking their ideas and proposals to workers’ doorsteps, saying, “Sometimes the biggest changes start out small.”

*Janice Lynn from Atlanta and Linda Joyce from Hayesville, North Carolina, contributed to this article.*

## Liberals say indict

**Continued from front page**

because he whines. He whines in a way that makes the weak feel less vulnerable and more vicious.

“The way they see it,” Blow continues, “they are victims of coastal and urban liberals and the elite institutions — economic, education and entertainment — clustered there. They are victims of an economy evolving in ways, both technical and geographic, that cuts them out or leaves them behind.”

And you can find dozens of similar commentaries in the *Times*, the *Washington Post* and CNN, as well as the morning “news” and nighttime talk shows.

Their gripe isn’t really that Trump’s policies are so different. He’s a billionaire who shares the goals of Democrats and Republicans alike to defend the interests of U.S. capital at home and abroad.

Millions of workers have been pushed out of jobs, with the “labor force participation rate” at record lows. They face a growing crisis in finding — or affording — health care. Infant mortality is going up. Life expectancy is falling. And there’s an explosion of opioid addiction.

For Blow and his ilk, workers seeking a solution to this state of affairs are just the “waning power of whiteness, privilege, patriarchy,” and a desire to go back to the “good old days” when women “got back-alley abortions and worked for partial wages” and “coal was king.”

He and his ilk see workers — especially workers who are Caucasian — as a big, dangerous mob of racists and reactionaries.

*Washington Post* columnist Eugene Robinson Aug. 3 tells workers who back Trump they don’t much matter. “The voice of a laid-off West Virginia coal miner is no more authentic than that of a Silicon Valley entrepreneur,” Robinson says, “or — and this may be shocking — an opinion writer for a mainstream news outlet.”

“Frustrated with a political system that seems incapable of getting much of anything accomplished,” he says, “they decided to lob in a grenade, blow it to smithereens and start over.”

That’s true.

Facts that don’t match their assumptions don’t matter to the liberal media. After months of articles with the wildest insinuations of Trump administration collusion with Moscow, they have little to point to that makes the case, but that doesn’t stop them.

And they lionize Special Prosecutor William Mueller, former boss of the FBI, the rulers’ political police, who’s been tasked with bringing Trump down.

Mueller impeaneled a grand jury at the end of July with power to subpoena documents, grill witnesses and make indictments. He has assembled a gang of FBI agents, prosecutors and hot-shot lawyers to do the job.

Workers have seen this type of operation before. The rulers pick a target, then turn special prosecutors and grand juries loose until they find something to pin on them. They spin off leaks and do everything possible to make the victim look like a criminal.

Mueller decided he wanted some papers from former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort. Instead of asking for them, he got the FBI to carry out a predawn raid on his home to seize them. Then he got the raid leaked to the *Washington Post*, which made it the lead story on its website Aug. 9.

It turns out that Manafort had already turned over many of them to a congressional committee also “investigating” Trump.

### Big Trump rallies

Despite wishful thinking by liberals that support for the president “is collapsing,” Trump has called out supporters in the face of this witch hunt in big rallies in working-class cities like Youngstown, Ohio, and Huntington, West Virginia.

“Are there any Russians here tonight?” Trump asked to laughter from a crowd of thousands Aug. 3 in Huntington, in the heart of coal country. “We don’t need advice from the Washington swamp,” he said to cheers. “We need to drain the swamp.”

“The reason the Democrats only talk about the totally made up Russia story is because they have no message, no agenda and no vision,” the president said. Under his leadership, Trump promised, “American workers will build the future and American energy and American clean coal will power this future.”